

Appl. No. : 09/901,764
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 15 (Canceled)

16. (Previously amended) A method of suppressing leakage from a body tissue, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sleeve formed from an expandable material and having opposed open ends, the sleeve being dimensioned for constricting the body tissue to suppress flow of at least one of body fluid and air through the body tissue, and including an X ray opaque material visible under X ray fluoroscopy;

drawing the body tissue into the sleeve; and

constricting and collapsing the body tissue within the sleeve.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of resecting a portion of the body tissue by severing the sleeve between its opposed open ends after the drawing the body tissue into the sleeve step.

18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of confirming the collapse of the body tissue by fluoroscopically visualizing the X ray opaque material.

19. (Canceled)

20–24 (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26–27 (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) A method of suppressing fluid flow through a portion of a body organ, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a resilient elongate hollow sleeve, the sleeve having at least a portion thereof configured to be viewable through an external imaging technique;

expanding the sleeve to an expanded configuration;

drawing a portion of the body organ into the expanded sleeve;

releasing the sleeve from its expanded configuration such that the sleeve collapses the portion of the body organ disposed therein.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of confirming that there is substantially no fluid flow through the portion of the body organ disposed within the sleeve.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of verifying the placement of the sleeve through X ray fluoroscopy.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of resecting a portion of the body organ by severing the sleeve and the body organ disposed therein.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the drawing a portion of the body organ in the expanded sleeve step is performed with vacuum assistance.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the drawing the body tissue into the sleeve step comprises drawing a portion of a lung into the sleeve.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein the drawing the body tissue into the sleeve step is performed with vacuum assistance.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of expanding the sleeve prior to the drawing the body tissue into the sleeve step.

36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of confirming that the sleeve is in the desired position by viewing the sleeve fluoroscopically.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the drawing a portion of the body organ into the expanded sleeve step comprises drawing a portion of a lung into the expanded sleeve.

38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the expanding the sleeve step is performed with vacuum assistance.

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the providing a resilient hollow sleeve step comprises providing a resilient hollow sleeve containing radiopaque material.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the providing a resilient hollow sleeve step comprises providing a resilient hollow sleeve containing radiopaque spheres embedded into the sleeve.

41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the providing a resilient hollow sleeve step comprises providing a resilient hollow sleeve containing radiopaque strips.

42. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of securing the sleeve onto the body organ.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein the step of securing the sleeve onto the body organ is performed by inwardly facing projections on the sleeve.

44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein the step of securing the sleeve onto the body organ takes place automatically as the sleeve is released from its expanded configuration.